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Borough of Weston-super-Mare

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year

1952

Including the

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Borough of Weston-super-Mare

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(January to May, 1952)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G. C. G. GREY

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR MRS. Y. E. BATTISCOMBE

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.

ALDERMAN A. J. HEYBYRNE

COUNCILLOR H. S. ALLEN

COUNCILLOR F. C. BESSELL

COUNCILLOR G. C. B. GEEVE

COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY

COUNCILLOR R. IVENS

COUNCILLOR D. H. MILLER-
BARSTOW, M.A.

COUNCILLOR G. A. PARROTT

COUNCILLOR G. F. WADHAM

(May to December, 1952)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G. C. G. GREY

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COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. LUCAS

COUNCILLOR D. G. MOORE

COUNCILLOR G. A. PARROTT

COUNCILLOR H. W. THORNE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health

D. MCGOWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

I. A. STEPHENSON, CERT. R.S.I. AND S.I.J.B., MEAT AND FOODS CERT.
R.S.I.

Abattoir Superintendent and Sanitary Inspector

W. W. WHITE (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Sanitary Inspectors

C. E. URCH (1, 3)
(Retired 12.5.52)

G. P. LAWRENCE (1, 3)
(Commenced 21.4.52)

W. J. THOMAS (1, 3, 5)

W. HETHERINGTON (1)
(Resigned 26.2.52)

N. R. CALEY (1, 3)

G. G. VIGGERS (1)
(Commenced 12.5.52)

Clerical Staff—5.

Key to Qualifications

1. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
2. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
3. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
4. Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing (Salvage).
5. Certificate of the London City and Guilds (Plumbing).
6. Certificate of Rutherford College (Building Construction).

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,

THE TOWN HALL,

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of

The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1952.

Part I deals with the vital statistics. There were 55 less deaths in 1952 than in 1951, the main decrease being in deaths due to coronary heart disease and high blood pressure with heart disease. This is reflected in the age distribution of the deaths, there being 31 deaths less in the age group 45-64 than in 1951. In addition, there was no extensive epidemic of influenza in 1952, so that there was only one death from this cause, compared with 20 in 1951. Deaths from cancer were 10 more than in 1951. A more disturbing feature, however, is the fact that there were 65 fewer births in 1952 than in 1951, the Birth Rate falling from 13·1 to 11·5 per 1,000 of the total population.

In the section dealing with the environmental services, housing is the most important item. It can be seen that, although there was an improvement in the rate of building during the year, this was offset by the increase in the number of applications for houses, and providing good living conditions for the people of the town will be one of the major tasks of the Council for many years to come.

I have also included in this section a brief account of some of the activities of the Local Health Authority, i.e. the County Council, and the Regional Hospital Board. The Health Services carried on by the Local Authority, Local Health Authority and Regional Hospital Board should be regarded as a single entity, and one cannot get a true picture of the health of the community without considering the work done by all these authorities.

With regard to infectious diseases, there were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease in the town, apart from an increase in the incidence of whooping cough. There was a welcome drop in the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 38 being notified in 1952, compared with 53 in 1951.

Mr. Stephenson's report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors has many interesting aspects. I would like to draw your attention particularly to the survey of catering establishments which was carried on during the year by Mr. Caley. The survey is not complete but includes the great majority of establishments in the town, and the standard of hygiene on the whole is remarkably good. There are, undoubtedly, some black spots among them, but it is hoped that these will eventually be eliminated.

In July, 1952, the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough also became the Medical Officer for Axbridge Rural District, and I think this scheme is working satisfactorily. There are many public health problems, such as caravan sites, which are common to both authorities.

I would like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated for their confidence and support, and the officers and staff of the Health and other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MCGOWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore)	...	...	...	...	7,006 acres
Population—1951 Census (Provisional Estimate)	...				40,165
Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1952					39,540
Rateable Value (1st April, 1952)	...	...	...	...	£425,367
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31.3.52)	...				£1,731 16s. 4d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (1st April, 1952)				...	11,322
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:—					
Houses	...	...	...	...	9,411
Flats and Tenements			...	...	1,349
Private Hotels	...	...	...	...	104
Houses and Shops	...	...	...	...	413
Firms and Agricultural Dwellings...				...	45
				TOTAL	11,322

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1952

Live Births:—				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	205	230	435
Illegitimate	...	...	...	12	9	21
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	217	239	456

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 11·53

Corrected Birth Rate (Comparability Factor, 1·04) = 12·0

Still Births:—				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	7	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	7	7	14

Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 29·78

Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) = 0·35

Deaths:—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	253	361	614

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) = 15·53

Corrected Death Rate (Comparability factor 0·72) = 11·18

Maternal Deaths:— 1 (Interval between maternal condition and death exceeded 12 months).

Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	9	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
			Totals	5	9	14

Infant Mortality Rate = 30·7

Death Rate per 1,000 population:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	0·20
All forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	0·23
Cancer (All forms)	...	...	2·66

I. VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The Registrar-General gives the corrected number of live births in the town as 456 (217 boys and 239 girls), this being 65 less than in 1951. Of these births, 21 were illegitimate (12 boys and 9 girls). This is 4·6 per cent of the total live births, as compared with 5·8 in 1951.

The crude birth rate for 1952 is 11·53, and when the comparability factor (1·04) is applied, the corrected birth rate is 12·0 per 1,000 of the total population, compared with 13·6 in 1951. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1952 was 15·3.

Birth Rates

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
England and Wales ...	15·8	16·5	17·6	16·1	19·1	20·5	17·9	16·7	15·8	15·5	15·3
Weston-s-Mare	14·4	15·6	17·6	16·5	15·7	17·4	15·7	14·1	13·0	13·1	11·5
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births in Weston-s-Mare	8·2	8·1	8·3	12·3	6·1	7·5	6·4	7·3	5·7	5·8	4·6

Stillbirths

The registered number of stillbirths in 1952 was 14 (7 males and 7 females), of which one was illegitimate, thus giving a stillbirth rate of 29·8 per 1,000 total births, or 0·35 per 1,000 of total population.

Deaths

After correction for transferable deaths, the net total assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 614 (253 males and 361 females). This is 55 less than in 1951, and gives a crude death rate of 15·5. When adjusted for sex and age distribution, to make it comparable with other districts, the local death rate was 11·2 compared with 11·3 for England and Wales as a whole.

Death Rates

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
England and Wales ...	11·6	12·1	11·6	11·4	11·5	12·0	10·8	11·7	11·6	12·5	11·3
Crude D.R., Weston-s-Mare	14·2	14·6	14·2	15·3	14·5	15·9	13·3	15·5	15·6	16·9	15·5

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1952			<i>Difference from 1951 figures</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	5	3	8	+ 2
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	1	—	1	+ 1
3. Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—	— 1
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	0
5. Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	0
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	2	2	+ 2
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	2	+ 2
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	0
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	— 2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	4	14	+ 2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	16	1	17	+ 1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	15	15	+ 4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6	6	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	25	26	51	+ 3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	2	2	0
16. Diabetes ...	2	—	2	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	40	61	101	+ 1
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	36	38	74	—15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	6	10	—13
20. Other heart disease ...	38	99	137	0
21. Other circulatory disease ...	14	12	26	+ 6
22. Influenza ...	—	1	1	—19
23. Pneumonia ...	5	16	21	+ 3
24. Bronchitis ...	9	5	14	—14
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	5	7	— 2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5	— 1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	— 4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	4	3	7	— 3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	9	—	9	— 6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	+ 1
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	1	2	— 2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	20	38	58	+ 2
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	3	5	— 1
34. All other accidents ...	5	8	13	+ 6
35. Suicide ...	1	2	3	— 8
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	0
All Causes—Total ...	253	361	614	—55
Deaths of infants under 1 year :				
Total ...	7	7	14	
Legitimate ...	6	7	13	
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1	

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1952

<i>Ages at Death in years</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Difference from 1951 figures</i>
Under 1	...	5	9	14	+ 4
1—	...	—	1	1	0
5—	...	1	2	3	— 2
15—	...	1	3	4	+ 1
25—	...	13	11	24	+ 4
45—	...	66	48	114	—31
65—	...	41	35	76	— 2
<hr/>					
Total under 70 years		—127	—109	—236	—26
70—	...	36	49	85	— 8
75—	...	41	73	114	— 2
80—	...	32	55	87	— 9
85—	...	13	44	57	— 7
90—	...	2	23	25	— 4
95—	...	2	6	8	— 1
Over 100	...	—	2	2	+ 2
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Total over 70 years		—126	—252	—378	—29
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Totals	...	253	361	614	—55
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Maternal Mortality

One death was attributed to maternal causes, but the interval between the maternal condition and death exceeded 12 months.

Infant Mortality

After correction for transferable deaths, 14 children (5 boys and 9 girls) under the age of 1 year died during 1952. This is four more than in 1951, and, owing to the comparatively small number of live births, the infant mortality rate rose from 19·2 per 1,000 live births in 1951 to 30·7 in 1952. The table on page 10 gives the causes of death in these infants, and the age at which death occurred.

Eight of the fourteen deaths occurred during the first four weeks of life, and the causes of death in these eight children could be called non-preventable. Prematurity, which accounted for five of the eight deaths in the neo-natal period, is still the largest single cause of death in infants. Of the 6 children who died between the ages of one month and one year, 2 died of pneumonia, one death was due to epilepsy, while 3 deaths were due to accident. In the accidental deaths, one was caused by asphyxia, due to the inhalation of vomited food, another was attributed to asphyxia, but despite the most careful post-mortem examination and investigation at the home, no apparent cause for the asphyxia was found. The third child died from a fracture of the skull due to a fall at home.

Infant Deaths, 1952

Cause of Death		Under 1 Day	1—2 Days	2—7 Days	Total under 1 week	1—2 Weeks	2—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
1.	Prematurity	2	2	1	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
2.	Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
3.	Rhesus incompatibility ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
4.	Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
5.	Asphyxia during sleep. (No apparent cause found)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
6.	Asphyxia (due to inhala- tion of vomited food) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
7.	Fracture of skull (Accident in home)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
8.	Idiopathic epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total		2	2	2	6	1	1	8	2	3	—	1	14

Infant Mortality Rates, 1940-1952

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
England and Wales ..	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	34	32	29·8	29·6	27·6
Weston- super- Mare	30	32	20	29	32	19	25	24	15	13	17	10	14
I.M.R. ...	60·9	55·9	33·5	48·8	47·8	30·7	40·9	34·8	24·1	23·1	32·5	19·2	30·7

INQUESTS

35 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these, 25 were upon residents of the town, and 8 on non-residents. In addition to these, 3 inquests were held elsewhere on persons normally resident in the Borough. The causes of death recorded at inquests upon residents are set out as follows:—

<i>Causes of death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural causes	2	3	5
Natural causes with self neglect	—	2	2
	— 2	— 5	— 7
Accidents, directly or indirectly:—			
Falls in the home	1	4	5
Falls outside the home ...	—	—	—
Poisoning, coal gas	—	3	3
Poisoning, Barbiturate ...	1	—	1
Road accidents	2	3	5
Drowning	—	1	1
Rifle Bullet Wound ...	1	—	1
Railway	—	1	1
Asphyxia in infants ...	2	—	2
Industrial Cadmium Poisoning	1	—	1
	— 8	—12	—20
Suicide:—			
Drowning	—	1	1
Coal Gas Poisoning... ..	1	1	2
	— 1	— 2	— 3
	— 11	— 19	— 30

POPULATION

The Registrar-General gives 39,540 as the mid-year estimate of the normal resident population of the Borough in 1952. This is 120 less than the estimate for 1951. The estimated population figures for 1951 and 1952 were based on different data from those available for previous years, therefore are not strictly comparable with previous years, and the apparent fall in population during the last two years does not necessarily reflect the true change in the population.

On Census Day, 1951, the provisional number of persons counted in the town was 40,165, but the true census of residents has not yet been published.

Registrar-General's Estimate of Population in Weston-super-Mare 1939—1952

1939	35,280	1946	38,890
1940	40,810	1947	39,590
1941	44,500	1948	39,710
1942	41,250	1949	39,830
1943	38,100	1950	40,210
1944	37,930	1951	39,660
1945	37,470	1952	39,540

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITALS

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the town and surrounding districts are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board, through the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee. The hospitals situated in the town are:—

Weston-super-Mare General Hospital
Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital
Drove Road Hospital
Royal West of England Convalescent Hospital

Drove Road Hospital

Drove Road Hospital, which was originally the Borough Isolation Hospital, was converted to a Geriatric Hospital in March, 1951, and since then has been of great benefit in dealing with the sick and infirm old people in the town. During 1952, 106 cases were admitted to the hospital, 80 of which came from Weston-super-Mare alone.

Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital

Before the last war, the majority of confinements took place at home, mothers being admitted to hospital only on urgent medical grounds. In his Annual Report for 1934, the late Dr. Weaver mentions that the average number of maternity cases admitted to the General Hospital was 10 per year, and no special beds were set aside for maternity cases. In 1934 it was agreed with the hospital to set aside four beds, with a labour ward, for the sole use of maternity cases.

After the beginning of the war, however, owing to the influx of evacuees, the changes in the housing situation, and other factors, it was realised that much greater facilities for hospital confinement would have to be made, and Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital was opened. The trend, therefore, was for an increasing use of hospitals for confinements, and since the end of the war this trend has continued, so that now the great majority of women want their confinements in hospital.

Of the 466 births actually registered in the town in 1952, 371 were in Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital, six in the General Hospital, 18 in private nursing homes, and only 71 at home. Of the 371 women who gave birth in Ashcombe House, 297 lived in Weston-super-Mare, the remainder coming mainly from Axbridge Rural District. Many other mothers resident in the town had their babies in hospitals in Bristol, Clevedon and Bridgwater, and it is safe to assume, therefore, that 85 per cent of Weston mothers who gave birth in 1952 had their confinements in hospital or nursing home, and undoubtedly this trend towards hospital confinement will continue even if the housing conditions are improved.

The following services in the Borough are administered by the Somerset County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinics

St. Andrew's Church Hall, Bournville	Monday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Church Institute, The Boulevard	Tuesday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Baytree Road	Wednesday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Moorland Road	Thursday	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinic Attendances, 1952

	Bournville	Boulevard	Baytree Road	Moorland Road	Total
1. Total attendance of children in 1952 ...	1,889	3,978	2,691	2,003	10,561
2. No. of individual children who attended in 1952	246	580	353	238	1,417
3. Total attendances of mothers in 1952 ...	1,342	3,545	2,331	1,768	8,986
4. No. of individual mothers who attended in 1952	185	409	280	194	1,068

Ante-Natal Clinics

Church Institute, The Boulevard, Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Church Institute, The Boulevard (Midwives' Clinic) Friday, 2.30 p.m.

Health Visiting Service

There are five Health Visitors in the town, and the following is a summary of their Home Visiting work in 1952.

Visits to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	1,175
Visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	3,938
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	...	7,703
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases	...	...	419
Other visits	...	...	2,168

District Nursing Service

During the year, the following new cases were dealt with by the District Nurses in the town.

Medical	...	...	...	412
Surgical	...	...	...	73
Midwifery	...	...	...	26
Maternity	...	...	...	35
				<hr/> 546 <hr/>

A total of 22,208 home visits were made.

Home Help Service

In 1952 the Home Help Service dealt with 440 cases in the Weston-super-Mare area, classified as follows:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	121
Old Age	...	...	...	...	...	184
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	18
Illness at home (not old age)	...	...	...	...	...	105
Caring for children while mothers in hospital						12
						<hr/> 440 <hr/>

School Health Service

The North-West Somerset Divisional Executive Area covers Weston-super-Mare and Axbridge Rural District. There are about 8,000 schoolchildren in the Divisional Area, about 5,000 of whom attend schools in Weston-super-Mare. During 1952, 2,022 children had a routine medical inspection in school, and in addition there were 525 special examinations, and 3,224 re-examinations. Of the 2,022 children who had a routine medical inspection, 226 were found to require treatment for some defect (apart from dental defect). The following clinics are held at 46 The Boulevard:—

School Clinic
Orthopædic Clinic
Speech Therapy Clinic
Child Guidance Clinic
Chest Clinic

Ambulance Service

The County Council provides an Ambulance and Hospital Car Service through the agency of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The group headquarters for the area is at 41 and 43 Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare.

First Aid Post and Centre for Lost Children

The First Aid Post was open from the 31st May to the 15th September. The British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade again staffed the post on alternate weeks during the season. A total of 982 cases (1,030 in 1951) were treated.

The Police Matron was in attendance at the Centre for Lost Children from the 26th May to the 14th September. During the season 488 children—214 girls and 274 boys—were cared for at the Centre (406 in 1951). The majority of the children were between the ages of 3 and 6 years.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948

This section provides for the removal to a suitable place of persons who are in need of care and attention through age or disease. No

cases were dealt with under this section of the Act during the year, although many instances of old people requiring care and attention were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department.

Disposal of Refuse

Controlled tipping on the site at Old Junction Road continued during the first half of the year, but in June, the Pottery Company informed the Borough Council that a clay pit near Langford Road, from which they had been extracting clay for several years, was now ready for tipping. Accordingly, tipping was commenced here in August, but only after a very large quantity of water had been pumped out of the pit. There is sufficient space for about 1½ years tipping in this clay pit.

Water Supplies

The Banwell Spring supply meets normal demands in quantity for the town, but requires supplementing from the Weston Well (which is excessively hard) throughout the summer season. Agreement has been reached in principle with the Bristol Waterworks Company for an additional supply, and a scheme for the necessary new mains and plant is in course of preparation.

The quality of the water from the Banwell Spring has again been very variable, and there has been frequent contamination from the gathering grounds. During the year 51 samples of raw water were examined bacteriologically, and of these only 21 were found to be satisfactory. 75 samples of water after chloramination were all found to be satisfactory. Eight chemical analyses of water were made during the year, and these were satisfactory. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

11,581 houses, representing an estimated population of 46,324, are supplied directly from the public mains, and 3 houses, representing 12 persons, obtain their water supplies from standpipes. There are no houses in the Borough obtaining their water supply from a well.

The following extensions of the public water supplies were carried out during the year:—

			<i>Total Estimated Cost</i>
Bournville Estate Site 10	} In progress, approx. 50 per cent completed.		
1280 yds. 4in. main			
1570 yds. 3ins. main			£4,705

Future proposals for the extension of water supplies are:—

				<i>Approximate Cost</i>
1.	Main from New Bridgwater Road to Housing Estates, Bournville Site 10, and Coronation Estate			
	184 yds. 8ins. main	...	...	...
	840 yds. 6ins. main	...	...	£2,722

2. Coronation Estate, approximately

1030 yds. 4in. main	...	...	Estimate not
1270 yds. 3in. main	...	...	yet prepared.

Drainage and Sewerage

The following extensions of sewers, new works and improvements were carried out during the year.

	<i>Cost</i>
1. Bournville Estate Site 10—completion of foul and surface water sewers	£7,500
2. Cleansing and Repair of outfall sewer	£1,650
3. Cleansing pumping main Milton Road—Milton Green to Mansfield Avenue section	£750

Future proposals are:—

Approx. Cost

1. Coronation Estate—foul and surface water sewers 24in.—6in.	£14,560
2. Cleansing and Repair of Outfall Sewer	£3,200
3. Reconstruction of 50–100 yds. of Outfall Sewer	£2,000
4. Cleansing and pumping main Milton Road—Mansfield Avenue to Ashcombe Road section	£750
5. Enlargement of Uphill Pumping Station ...	£16,000
6. Main Drainage Scheme	£750,000

Housing

There was a distinct improvement in the rate of building of new houses in 1952, 152 new houses being erected as compared with 56 in 1951. The total number of post-war houses completed in the Borough at the end of the year was 1,168 (Local Authority 992, Private Enterprise 176). The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 1,260, compared with 1,178 at the end of 1951. The Borough Council decided to aim at a building programme of 200 Council houses each year for the next 5 years.

	<i>Houses erected during year</i>		<i>Houses in course of erection</i>		<i>Conversion to Flats or Dwellings</i>	
	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Temporary</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Temporary</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Temporary</i>
Local Authority	135	—	81	—	—	—
Private Enterprise	17	—	26	—	6	—
Total	152	—	107	—	6	—

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1952

	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	25	3	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Measles	188	5	—
Whooping cough... ..	162	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	6	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	1	—
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—
Food poisoning	3	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid)	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all types)	9	2	21
Meningococcal Infection	3	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	38	—	8
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)... ..	4	—	1

Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1952, and since the end of the war only four cases have been notified in the town. No deaths have occurred from the disease since 1942.

Immunisation against diphtheria in infant welfare clinics and by private doctors continued through the year, and 337 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 79 children in the age group 5 to 14 years received primary immunisation, and 328 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

In addition, 41 children under the age of 5 years received diphtheria immunisation in combination with whooping cough immunisation.

It is disturbing to note that, as the years pass, the number of children receiving diphtheria immunisation is falling. Although actual clinical cases of diphtheria in the country have been reduced to a very low level, the responsible organism is probably still present in the throats of many healthy carriers. If the proportion of the child population who are immunised falls to a low level, there is a chance that diphtheria may return as an epidemic disease.

The only way to keep it at bay is to keep a high proportion of the child population immunised against the disease. Parents are apt to think that as they do not see the disease in the form in which it was prevalent fifteen or twenty years ago, it is not necessary to have their children immunised. This is a very dangerous idea, and it should be emphasised that immunisation is still essential.

Scarlet Fever

25 cases of scarlet fever were notified during 1952, three cases being admitted to hospital. There were no deaths from the disease, and all the cases were mild.

Puerperal Sepsis

There were only 3 cases of puerperal sepsis notified during the year. There was no connection between the cases, and they occurred at different times of the year.

Measles

The usual biennial epidemic of measles began towards the end of the year, and continued until the end of May, 1953, when a total of 600 cases had been notified. During 1952, a total of 188 cases were notified, five of which were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths from the disease.

Whooping Cough

162 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, compared with 94 in 1951. Notifications were received during most weeks of the year, but the greatest number occurred between February and May, when 108 cases were notified. Only one case required admission to hospital, and there were no deaths due to the disease.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

There were six notified cases of poliomyelitis in the town in 1952, with two deaths. The first case occurred during the first week of the year, and the child, after a short illness, died. There were no further cases until the end of July, when there occurred a series of six cases in quick succession. Three of the cases occurred in one small area of the town, the patients being all children. Although these children lived fairly near each other, no direct contact could be traced between them. The remaining cases occurred in another small area at the South end of the town, the first being a child, and the second a man who lived in the same street. This man developed the severe bulbar type of paralysis, and died after a very short illness. At the same time, a girl of 20 who had gone on holiday developed poliomyelitis with severe paralysis shortly after arriving in Margate. She lived in the next street to the other two cases. Again, no evidence of direct contact could be traced between the three cases. No further cases occurred after the middle of August.

Food Poisoning

In July, an outbreak of diarrhoea occurred among the staff of one of the large hotels in the town. Two of the kitchen staff and the housekeeper were found to be suffering from infection with *Salmonella typhi-murium*, but surprisingly, none of the guests in the hotel were affected. This may be attributed to the excellent kitchen technique in force at the hotel, and shows the value of good kitchen hygiene in the prevention of spread of *Salmonella* infections.

Dysentry

Only four notifications of dysentry were received during the year all being due to infection with Shig. Sonnei. Three of the cases were in the same family. Although only four cases were notified, it is probable that Sonne dysentery is a very common infection, but where the infection is comparatively mild, probably no medical aid is sought.

Meningococcal Infection

Three cases of meningococcal infection were notified during the year. Two were girls, ages 18 and 20 years respectively, and who developed meningococcal septicaemia and died after a very short illness. The third case was a child age 2½ years, who made a good recovery.

In addition, another child age 1 year, was admitted to hospital with symptoms of meningitis. This was found to be due to Haem. influenza, and although he was very ill, he made a good recovery with chloromycetin.

Tuberculosis

Thirty-eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were registered during the year. In addition, one case was restored to the register, following the return of the patient to the district. There were eight deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register on 1.1.52 ...	107	103	29	11	136	111
Registered new cases in 1952 ...	18	19	1	3	19	22
Cases previously removed from the register and returned in 1952 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
	125	120	30	14	155	134
Cases removed from register in 1952 ...	35	27	15	5	50	32
No. of cases on register on 31.12.52 ...	90	93	15	9	105	102

Age Distribution of Cases of Tuberculosis Notified in 1952

Age Groups			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F
Under 5	...	...	—	—	—	—
5—	...	...	2	3	—	2
15—	...	...	4	3	—	—
25—	...	...	3	5	—	1
35—	...	...	—	4	—	—
45—	...	...	4	3	1	—
55—	...	...	3	2	—	—
65—	...	...	2	—	—	—
			—	—	—	—
			18	20	1	3
			—	—	—	—

Mass Radiography

From the 16th April to the 5th May a Mass Radiography Unit from the South-West Regional Hospital Board visited the town. The response was very satisfactory, and 3,133 people had a miniature X-Ray film of the chest taken. The results of the survey are tabulated below:—

	Male	Female	Total
Total number examined (miniature film) ...	1,454	1,679	3,133
Number recalled for further X-Ray (large film)	85	76	161
Number who did not attend for further X-Ray	1	2	3
Analysis of significant cases:—			
Non-tuberculous abnormalities	28	16	44
Inactive tuberculosis	13	10	23
Active tuberculosis	4	3	7

Age Distribution of Tuberculosis cases detected

	<i>Under 15 years</i>	<i>15—24 years</i>	<i>25—34 years</i>	<i>35—44 years</i>	<i>45—59 years</i>	<i>60 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Active tuber- culosis :							
Males ...	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Females ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Inactive tuber- culosis :							
Males ...	—	1	2	3	5	2	13
Females ...	1	1	3	1	4	—	10
Total ...	1	2	6	8	11	2	30

Disposal of Tuberculosis cases detected

	<i>No action</i>	<i>To patient's own doctor</i>	<i>To Tuberculosis Dispensary</i>	<i>To Sanatorium</i>
Inactive Tuberculosis ...	8	10	5	—
Active Tuberculosis ...	—	—	6	1

Mass Radiography is a most valuable instrument in the early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis, and can detect the disease before the appearance of any symptoms. Treatment can therefore be started at a stage when hope of a successful result can be achieved.

Vaccination against Smallpox

144 primary vaccinations and 121 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by private general practitioners in the Borough during 1952. The following table, giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated shows that only 111 children under the age of 1 year received primary vaccination. (Number of live births in 1952=456).

Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1952

Age Groups	Under 1		1		2—4		5—14		15 & over		Totals	
	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>
Weston-super-Mare	111	1	5	—	3	7	6	22	19	91	144	121
Somerset County ...	2195	3	136	10	93	39	101	107	255	908	2780	1067

P—Primary vaccination
R—Re-vaccination

IV. SANITARY WORK

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the Borough during the year 1952.

Reference in previous Annual Reports has been made to the difficulties which must be faced these days in carrying out statutory obligations under the Housing Act, 1936. The year under review has seen little reduction in these difficulties, and an attempt has been made to steer a middle course by the limited use of the Housing Act, and an extended use of the Public Health Act. In addition a great deal has been accomplished by informal discussions with owners of property which was falling into an irreparable condition. The present housing problem has been largely created by the war, and the shortage of material and labour has been repeatedly stressed. The repairable property of to-day, if neglected, becomes the irreparable property of to-morrow.

Further progress was made with regard to hygienic methods in connection with the manufacture, handling and sale of food. An immense amount of advisory work has been carried out at food premises. A large amount of time is devoted in responding to the requests of shopkeepers for the examination of canned and other foodstuffs.

There was a decrease in the number of samples of ice cream submitted for bacteriological examination, due mainly to the removal of the laboratory to new premises.

Once again I take this opportunity of recording my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Water Committee of the Council for the sympathetic help received, also to express my appreciation to the Chief Officers for their co-operation. With pleasure I again record the loyal and valued assistance rendered by the staff and for their team spirit.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

I. A. STEPHENSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS

Sanitary Notices served 18

HOUSING

This Authority is progressing with the building of new houses, but it has not been possible to deal with the older type of house that is rapidly becoming decayed. These properties which have long out-lived their usefulness present a problem to many local authorities.

The Housing Act, 1936, which deals with the repair of houses, presents great difficulties owing to the very high cost of repairs, and it is hoped that in the near future some financial assistance will be forthcoming to owners of property who are prepared to put it back into the property.

Property which is below standard calls for a great deal of patience and tact all round, and in the meantime no end to the demand for new and improved accommodation can be seen for some years to come.

Complaints received and dealt with during the year numbered 84.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The following action was taken:—

Treatments — Primary	...	...	7
Secondary	...	...	1
Preventive	...	...	0
To rooms	...	...	19

The agents used for disinfestation are:—

(1) Ris; (2) Killgercide; (3) Zaldecide; (4) D.D.T.; (5) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparation.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Six complaints were received and appropriate action taken.

Smoke observations on the main factory and hotel chimneys within the Borough have resulted in considerable abatement of smoke nuisances.

In one instance the Local Authority set a fine example for the abatement of a smoke nuisance, by the installation of electric power. The premises referred to are the Knightstone Swimming Baths, a “glowing” example for others to follow suit. Here was continued smoke nuisance, but owing to the change over, no nuisance now exists, the air is cleaner, and the buildings will not fall into decay so quickly.

Great difficulties have arisen in some factories owing to unsuitable fuel, but appropriate representations to the responsible department have met with good results.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Surface Infestation. During the past year, there has been a slight decrease in the number of complaints of rat infestation, and where infestation did occur, they were found to be of a minor character.

Mice infestation complaints increased slightly, but this was largely due to the response from householders to report even the slightest traces of this pest, in the knowledge that we are now able to deal successfully with mice due to the use of modern lethal baits.

Sewers. The Borough sewers were test baited in the spring of the year, and affected sections were afterwards treated with good results, dead bodies being recovered from the manholes.

A further treatment was carried out at the end of the summer months, and it is interesting to note that whereas in 1947, 27 per cent of the Borough sewers were rat infested, the latest treatment revealed a rat population occupying no more than 5 per cent of our sewers, and this control has at times been reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Refuse Tips. Rat infestation at the Borough Refuse Tips has over the past eight years been reduced from an uncontrollable major infestation, to an extremely minor one, and the use of the new poison "Warfarin" in the spring of the year almost eliminated rat infestation at the Old Junction Road Tips.

A striking example of the effectiveness of modern methods of rat destruction can easily be appreciated when we consider that in 1945 it was possible to distribute some 3 cwts. of poison bait in the various rat holes that existed in the tips, but after the spring treatment of 1952, the operator could not find sufficient rat holes in which to distribute 14 lbs. of bait.

Poisons. Great success has been achieved in the past with the use of Zinc Phosphide and Red Squill, but recently the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries introduced an entirely new poison, "Warfarin," which has in many ways revolutionised methods of treatment, and effects great economy in its use.

The poison consists of an anti-coagulant which when mixed with oatmeal cannot be detected by rats or mice; consequently the rodents eat the oatmeal greedily and receive small doses of poison over a period of six days, after which death occurs suddenly.

The advantages of such a poison can readily be observed for there is no taste or smell which would cause aversion to the rat, and the hazards to other animals are extremely small.

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other (includ- ing Business Premises)</i>	Total
i. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	34	11,744	121	614	12,513
ii. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise	(a) 3	450	20	22	495
	(b) —	56	43	460	559
iii. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats	Major — Minor 2	— 106	— 9	— 19	— 136
iv. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	1	397	—	7	405
v. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	3	503	—	22	528
vi. Number of notices served under Section 4 :— (1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works ... (i.e. Proofing)	—	2	—	—	2
vii. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—
viii. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
ix. Number of "block control" schemes carried out	Nil				

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION FOR purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	<i>Number on Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>		<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (6)
		<i>Inspections</i> (4)	<i>Written Notices</i> (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	116	122	15	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	197	300	25	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises ...	—	—	—	—
Total	313	422	40	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) By H.M. Inspectors (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	19	18	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilations (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	5	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	10	9	—	3	—
Total ...	36	32	—	5	—

OUTWORK—Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1)</i>	<i>Section 111 Notices Served</i>
Wearing apparel (making, etc. Cleaning and Washing)	13	—
Furniture and Upholstery	1	—
Umbrellas, etc.	1	—
Total	15	—

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The importance of clean and hygienic filling material in relation to public health was acknowledged by the passing of the Rag Flock Act, 1911, which was intended to secure that all rags used in the manufacture of flock should be properly cleansed before being converted into flock for use in bedding and upholstery.

Since 1911, it has been generally believed that the existing legisla- tion had insufficient or ineffective control over certain types of filling material. The Rag Flock and Other Filling Material Act, 1951, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951, and under this Act certain premises have to be registered or licensed.

The number of registered premises are	...	...	...	6
No. of samples taken	...	...	...	4

OPEN FRONTED SHOPS

The Byelaws made by the Minister of Health under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted by the Borough Council and came into operation on the 16th August, 1950. A copy of the Byelaws was sent to all persons affected, and it is pleasing to note that all butchers' shops have now protection against con- tamination by dust, dirt, and other filth, by providing front glass windows, or by refrigerated displays.

The fish shops are now following the example of butchers' shops, by providing plate glass windows to their shops.

The grocery and greengrocery trades have also received the attention of the department, in preventing the handling of foodstuffs before purchase, and secondly preventing the contamination of vegetables by dogs by allowing such food to be placed too near to the floor.

HYGIENE IN CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

A survey of hotels, boarding houses, restuarants and cafes, which was started in 1951 was continued in 1952 and 678 visits and inspections were made covering 415 establishments. The results of the survey are shown in the following table.

	<i>Hotels and Boarding Houses with Employed Staff</i>	<i>Boarding Houses with- out Employed staff</i>	<i>Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number inspected	151	179	85	415
Structural Defects	2	6	3	11
Redecoration required ...	21	22	14	57
Lack of cleanliness	4	11	8	23
Refrigeration not present	44	149	13	206
Insufficient food storage ...	9	9	7	25
Inadequate facilities for cleansing utensils	5	33	7	45

Work Done as a Result of the Survey	<i>No. of Establishments</i>
Alterations, repairs and redecorations of kitchens, additional ventilation; general cleanliness of utensils, etc.	69
Additional supply of hot water and better washing facilities for staff	11
Repairs and/or alterations to drainage and w.c's ...	8
New or additional kitchen sinks	5
Treatment for cockroaches	7

There is an increasing awareness among managements and staff for the need for cleanliness and care in the handling of food destined for our visitors. However, since food hygiene is basically dependent on the cleanliness and clean habits of the personnel employed in kitchens in the preparation and serving of food, it is anticipated that in due course all such staff will be provided with clean overalls and head covering, and adequate facilities for them to wash their hands frequently without having to use the kitchen sink.

An improvement could be made with regard to the facilities for storing food, particularly in the smaller establishments; experience has shown the vital part played by a refrigerator in minimising the risk of food poisoning, provided the refrigerator is used properly.

Greater use is being made of washing machines and detergents for cleansing crockery.

SHOPS

Prior to 1st April, 1952, the Public Health Department had only been responsible for the administration of the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act. On that date, the remaining duties under the Act, were transferred to the Public Health Department. The chief requirements under this heading relate to closing hours, employment of young persons, half-day and Sunday closing, and proper keeping of records.

There are in the Borough over 600 shops and other business premises, which to some extent come under the provisions of the Act.

It soon became apparent that many of the shopkeepers were ignorant of the requirements of the Act, particularly in relation to various abstracts, and a large number of shop to shop visits were necessary to explain the Act as it affected the various trades. Visits amounted during the year to some 477.

An early improvement in the observance of the requirements of the Act has already been secured, and it has already been noted that arrangements for the health and comfort of employees has been improved.

Total number of shops inspected	...	...	...	407
Shops failing to comply with Shops Act, Section 38 (arrangements for health and comfort of shop workers)	...	...	...	24
Defects remedied	...	...	...	16
Shops in which notices were not exhibited as required by the Act	...	...	...	136

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS

A close watch has been maintained on the question of movable dwellings, and it is pleasing to report that no serious infringements have occurred.

The camps generally have been maintained in a reasonable condition throughout the year.

To arrive at uniformity as regards density and sanitary administration in the Borough and the adjoining Rural District, a conference between representatives of the two Health Departments agreed on a standard suitable for both districts, which will mean in due course a uniform standard for Holiday Camps being applied.

The Standard Motor Company, Coventry, for the fifth year in succession, organised a holiday camp on land in Windwhistle Lane, Weston-super-Mare. Over 2,000 employees took advantage of this holiday, deriving great benefit from a fortnights holiday with plenty of clean fresh air, and a maximum amount of sunshine. No complaints were received by the Health Department, and the Standard Motor Company are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements made for the comfort of the campers.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is only one offensive trade in the Borough namely Gut Scraping, which is carried on in a building at the Public Abattoir. No nuisance was recorded.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,862
Nuisances or complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	475
Work Ordered	...	...	...	...	...	...	784
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Drainage:—							
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Dwelling houses:—							
Inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	541
Inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1936-1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	495
Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Houses inspected before tenants enter Council Houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
Houses inspected <i>re</i> vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Houses inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Visits <i>re</i> infectious diseases and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Interviews with Agents, owners and contractors, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	534
Factories inspections —Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Non-Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Shop Act inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	477
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Ice Cream Shops and Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Butchers' Shops and Abattoirs	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	526
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	678
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	446
Inspections of stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Inspections of Public and Private Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	361
Refuse Bin inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits <i>re</i> Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits <i>re</i> Public Buildings (including Licensed Amusement Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits <i>re</i> Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	541
Cesspool inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Petrol Store Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Visits <i>re</i> Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pet Animals Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Samples: —Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	85
Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	26
Food	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream...	...	...	...	...	137
Milk	...	...	...	...	107

WORK DONE

Houses closed under “ Undertaking ”	...	...	...	...
Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	...	95
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	87
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	8
Houses cleansed and decorated	...	...	...	...	10
Rooms repaired	...	...	...	...	105
Rooms repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	...	...	...	...	43
Floors re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Skirtings, etc. renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Firegrates renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	...	...	...	...	16
Stairs renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	41
Ventilations and/or lighting improved	...	...	...	...	6
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped	...	...	...	...	64
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	...	...	...	...	25
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	...	...	...	...	26
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or re-built	...	...	...	...	18
Earth banks removed from houses	...	...	...	...	—
Damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	4
Floor timbers treated for dry rot	...	...	...	...
Sanitary sinks provided	...	...	...	...	14
Yards paved, repaired or re-laid	...	...	...	...	6
Tenants required to amend conditions	...	...	...	...	8
Vermin: Houses, etc. treated for primary infestation or for precautionary measuring	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse bins provided	...	...	...	...	9
Overcrowding :—Houses found to be overcrowded	...	...	...	...	28
Cases abated	...	...	...	...	4
Animals and Poultry:—Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	3
Premises dealt with	2

Rats and Mice Infestation:

Premises dealt with	541
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Drainage:—

Drains re-laid at existing houses	13
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired	38
Drains trapped and properly ventilated	...	...	...	...	13
Premises supplied with additional drainage	...	...	...	...	12
Additional drains provided	...	...	...	...	3
New drain inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Premises supplied with additional water closets	...	...	...	...	—
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...	—

Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed	...	9
New water closet pedestals fixed	... ..	9
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed	... ..	12
New baths fixed	... ..	1
New lavatory basins fixed	... ..	2
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired	... ..	1
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed	... ..	1
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed	... ..	13
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated	... ..	9
Ditches and back lanes cleansed	... ..	2
Accumulations of rubbish removed	... ..	16
Smoke or fumes: Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with	... ..	4
Tents, vans and sheds: Nuisances abated	... ..	21
Swine kept in contravention	... ..	15

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc:—

	<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles</i>
Scarlet Fever...	27	215
Tuberculosis	31	212
Poliomyelitis	1	15
Erysipelas	1	7
Venereal Disease	1	12
Measles	1	0
Cancer	8	73
Scabies	—	18
Septicaemia	—	4
Vermin	18	44
Non-notifiable	19	201
	107	802

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

Progress in dairy practice has been maintained throughout the year. Sampling of rinsed bottles has revealed that where steam has been applied the bottles show a very low bacterial count, whereas the washing of bottles by hand with possibly a little detergent has not met with such good results; so the practice of this department is to recommend steam for the cleansing of all milk bottles and churns.

The following licences were granted:—

	<i>Dealers</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	17	6
Pasteurised	17	3
Accredited	—	—

Particulars of Register

No. of Registered Distributors ...	...	...	...	...	60
No. of Registered Dairy Premises	...	...	...	...	53

Milk Sampling

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested	52	43	9
Pasteurised ...	43	42	1

Biological Sampling

No. Taken 12. Negative Results 12. Positive Results Nil.

DRINKING WATER

26 samples of water for bacteriological analysis from taps in different parts of the district were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Taunton, with satisfactory results.

SWIMMING BATH WATER

85 samples of swimming bath water from the open air swimming pool and the Knightstone Baths were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and 80 were found to be of a high standard of purity.

The samples were carried out at odd times of the day, particularly during peak periods. Periodical testing of water during daytime for chlorine was carried out with satisfactory results.

The approximate number of bathers for the year was as follows:—

Open Air Swimming Pool	...	...	...	...	...	250,120
Knightstone Baths	...	...	...	...	...	100,000

ICE CREAM

Personal hygiene is an essential step to ensure that contamination of ice cream is prevented, together with the proper use of steam for sterilization of all apparatus used in connection with the manufacture of ice cream.

The number of premises registered for the sale of wrapped ice cream has increased; this is to be encouraged, rather than the selling of loose ice cream.

On the whole the testing of ice cream samples during the year revealed a continuance of good quality ice cream, and the manufacturers eagerly await the Laboratory returns with great enthusiasm.

Number of premises registered:—

(a) Manufacture and retail	...	...	175
(b) Manufacture only	...	...	10
(c) Retail only	...	...	165

The number of samples submitted for examination was 137, and they were graded as follows:—

			<i>Hot Mix</i>	<i>Cold Mix</i>
Grade 1	...	...	103	2
Grade 2	...	...	20	2
Grade 3	...	...	5	—
Grade 4	...	...	5	—

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL

In February of this year Memo 3/Meat, a memorandum regarding the methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Food for adoption by Local Authorities and their officers, came into operation.

This memo. supercedes Memo. 62/Foods which has been in practice throughout the country. The main flaw in the new regulation is that the live animal is still exempt from the compulsion of carrying a veterinary certificate so the handicap remains, as most of the casualties received are alive, and little is known as to treatment or medicine administered to sick animals.

Transport and handling of Meat. The vehicles engaged in the transport of meat from the Public Abattoir to the various pools are kept in good condition.

These vehicles are of the closed-in hanging type of approved pattern, being washed daily and examined before loading. Extra attention is given to steel offal bins. The attention of the officials responsible for the protective clothing of the meat humpers has been drawn to cases of soiled clothes, and in each case the matter has been rectified. On two occasions the fault lay with the delay in laundry deliveries.

Cysticercus Bovis. Only 50 cases of Cysticercus Bovis (·53 per cent of carcasses examined) were diagnosed during the year; this is an appreciable decrease in comparison with 1951.

Most of the animals involved are still in the 1½ to 4 years group, very small incidence in animals over 4½ years, and all animals in prime condition.

During the year we received 1,130 casualties, comprising 221 cattle, 94 calves, 220 sheep and 595 pigs.

Casualty cattle comprised all diseases, calves—immaturity and bruising, sheep—Toxaemia and Flukes. Pigs throughout the whole year have been found with acute and chronic Lobar Penumonia. As little is known of the history of these animals the additional work entailed in full examination is considerable, as no effort must be spared to ensure that only food fit for human consumption is passed on to the public. In the past the veterinary certificates (when we received them) were very vague, and even with the new regulations there is no compulsion that such live animals must carry any certificate, only dead carcasses to carry such certificates.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's Agent for residual recovery purposes:—

		<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Condemned meat	... ..	102	17	1	21
Non-edible offals, etc.	... ..	361	11	0	25
		464	8	2	18

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Pigs	560	229	338	379	690	2,745	2,355
Sheep	41,855	26,963	22,636	23,231	26,542	21,769	27,101
Calves	7,960	11,965	12,421	7,348	8,400	11,995	10,508
Beasts	9,106	7,990	7,381	7,742	10,370	10,120	9,422

Difference from the year 1951:—

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
—698	—1,487	+ 5,332	—390

There was an increase of 2,757 animals slaughtered.

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls, and rentals was as follows :—

							£	s.	d.
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,343	0	6
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,524	0	0
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,510	15	8
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,588	4	4
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,225	19	6
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,366	8	9
1952, including rentals and tolls as below						...	4,332	6	6
Tolls including car auction fees						...	44	13	9
Rentals	...	...	...	...	...	...	360	10	0
Rent of Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	4	0

1952. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

	<i>Tuberculosis</i> <i>Cattle</i> <i>Total</i>	<i>Cirrhosis (Distoma</i> <i>Hepaticum) Cattle</i> <i>Total</i>	<i>Fevered or</i> <i>Emaciation</i>	<i>Pericarditis and</i> <i>Peritonitis</i>	<i>Abscesses</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>John's Disease</i>	<i>Angioma</i>	<i>Actinomycosis</i>	<i>Cysts and</i> <i>Decomposition</i>	<i>Cysticercus</i> <i>Bovis</i>	<i>Injury and</i> <i>Nephritis</i>	<i>Septic and</i> <i>Septicaemia</i>	<i>Oedema</i>	<i>Red Water Fever</i>	<i>Uraemia</i> <i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Immaturity and</i> <i>Jaundice</i>	<i>Moribund</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CATTLE: Carcases and all offal	136	—	18	18	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	189
Quarters ...	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	82
Heads and Tongues	350	—	—	—	93	127	—	—	102	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	595
Lungs and Hearts	413	—	89	89	149	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	954
Livers ...	566	1,753	98	—	558	—	50	1,144	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,119
Guts ...	47	—	17	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	131
Stomachs	61	—	32	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143
Skirts ...	53	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	126
CALVES:—Carcases	3	—	14	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	1	33	—	67
Quarters	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Livers ...	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Plucks	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Guts ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Heads ...	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
SHEEP:—Carcases	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	22	—	—	—	11	83
Livers ...	—	1,087	149	51	39	—	—	—	—	1,002	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	2,238
Plucks	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	131
Heads ...	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Guts ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
Quarters	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
PIGS:—Carcases	8	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	8	—	—	—	—	58
Quarters	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	19
Heads ...	136	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	140
Plucks	101	—	—	84	—	153	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	363
Livers ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Guts ...	183	—	83	140	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	406

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>CATTLE including COWS</i>	<i>CALVES</i>	<i>SHEEP and LAMBS</i>	<i>PIGS</i>
Number killed	9,422	10,508	27,101	2,355
Number inspected	9,422	10,508	27,101	2,355
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	62	64	83	50
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4,630	40	2,589	521
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	49·8%	·98%	9·8%	24·2%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	136	3	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,520	—	—	320
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	17·57%	·08%	—	13%

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was:—

Tuberculous Meat:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Beef and organs, including 136 carcasses and 30 quarters	52	16	1	6				
Pigs and organs, including 98 carcasses and organs	2	0	0	14				
Calves and organs, including 3 carcasses ...		2	1	18				
Total weight of tuberculous meat	54	18	3	10				

Non-Tuberculous Meat:—

Beef and organs, including 62 carcasses and 52 quarters	38	19	3	3				
Pigs and organs, including 50 carcasses ...	3	8	3	26				
Sheep and organs, including 83 carcasses ...	4	2	0	10				
Calves and organs, including 64 carcasses	1	7	3	0				
Total weight of non-tuberculous meat	47	18	2	11				
Total weight of all condemned meat	102	17	1	21				

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN

Meat	...	...	72 lbs.	Sugar...	...	...	84 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	132 lbs.	Bacon	...	...	29½ lbs.
Poultry	...	...	106¾ lbs.	Cheese	...	...	31 lbs.
Fish	...	...	728 lbs.	Dried Egg	...	...	5 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	94 lbs.	Rice	...	...	336 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	12½ lbs.	Cakes	...	...	999 lbs.
Sweets	...	...	149 lbs.	Flour	...	...	1 lb.

Canned Goods

Meat	...	...	401 cans	Jams & Marmalade	...	...	27 cans
Fruit	...	...	1,250 „	Fish	...	...	146 „
Vegetables	...	...	569 „	Soup & Broth	...	...	1,013 „
Milk	...	...	116 „	Puddings	...	...	3 „
Paste	...	...	3 jars	Coconuts	...	...	170
Chutney & Ketchup	...	...	5 „	Faggots	...	...	76
Pudding Mixture	...	...	2 pkts.	Cakes	...	...	96
Sponge Mixtures	...	...	5 „	Chocolates	...	...	72 bars
Milk Whipping	...	...	1 pkt.	„	...	...	39 boxes
Cereals	...	...	2 pkts.	„	...	...	47 pkts.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The number of samples submitted for analysis by the County was 176.

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>
33	Milks	... Genuine	1	Health Salts	Genuine
1	„	... Adulterated	1	Syrup of Figs	„
		(Contained	1	Dyspepsia Tablets	„
		4.1 % added water	1	De-hydrated	„
		Retailer		Pineapple	...
		Cautioned)	1	Sweet Cake Flav.	„
13	T.T. Milks	... Genuine		Mixture	...
4	T.T. Milks	... Adt. Def. of	1	Italian Peeled	„
		Fat. Retailer		Tomatoes	...
		Cautioned	1	Polony	...
13	C.I. Milks	... Genuine	1	Apple Sauce	...
3	C.I. Milks	Adt. Fat below	1	Coconut Kisses	„
		4 % Reported to	1	Pearl Barley	„
		Ministry of	1	Sydrax	...
		Food	1	Brisling	...
4	Sterilised Milks	Genuine	1	Faggots	...
3	Pasteurised Milks	„	1	Cake & Pudding	„
8	Butter...	...		Mixture	...
3	Lard	...	1	Synthetic Cream	„
3	Tea	...		Powder	...
3	Lemonade Powder	„	1	Oatcakes	...
1	Caraway Seeds	„	1	Apple-Black-	„
1	Mixed Spice	„		currant Jam	„

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Description of sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>
1	Scotch Whisky	Genuine	1	Candied Oranges & Genuine	
1	Blood Purifying Pills ...	„		Lemon Peel ...	„
1	Tomato Juice	„	1	Tomato Sauce	„
	Cocktail ...	„	1	Camerron Syrup	„
1	Brandy Snaps ...	„	1	Peppermint Lozen.	„
1	Peaches ...	„	2	Ground Almonds	„
1	Malt Vinegar ...	„	1	Yorkshire Pudding	
1	Salad Fruit ...	„		& Batter Mix. ...	„
1	Sandwich Spread	„	1	Lamb Pork, Beef	„
1	Ground Nutmegs	„	1	Fruit Salad Syrup	„
1	Table Jelly ...	„	1	Custard Powder	„
2	Coffee & Chicory		1	Sago ...	„
	Essence ...	„	2	White Pepper ...	„
1	Lemon Cheese ...	„	1	Mint Sauce	„
2	Marmalade ...	„	2	Chicken of Noodle	
2	Rusks ...	„		Soup ...	„
1	Vykmin ...	„	1	Sardines in Edible	
1	Halibut Oil Capsules	„		Oil ...	„
1	Abidec ...	„	1	Chocolate Wafer	„
1	Glycerine & Black- currant Pastilles	„	1	Apple-Raspberry	
1	Jelly Creams ...	„		Jam ...	„
1	Sponge Mixture...	„	1	Banana Curd ...	„
1	Ground Mixture	„	1	Nerve Pills ...	„
1	Pork Pie ...	„	1	Dandelion Coffee	
1	Sherbert ...	„		Essence ...	„
1	Pork Sausage ...	„	1	Dressed Crab ...	„
2	Beef Sausages ...	„	1	Sauce ...	„
1	Shoulder Bacon	„	1	Cloves ...	„
1	Custard Mix ...	„	1	Cut Mixed Peel	„
			1	Date Pudding ...	„
			1	Salad Spread ...	„

Ice Creams:—

Fat Content	<i>Number of Samples</i>
Under 5·0 per cent	... Nil
Between 5·0 per cent and 10·0 per cent	... 6
Between 10·0 per cent and 15·0 per cent	... 1
	—
Total	... 7
	—

V. METEOROLOGY

In spite of the increased rainfall, and what appeared to be a deficiency of sun during the summer months, the total sunshine hours (1,652.3) for the year exceeded the average for the 10 years, 1942—1951, by 54.6 hours.

January's total of 89 hours sunshine was the highest recorded in that month since the beginning of the century, while June, with only 162.6 hours, had the lowest number of hours since 1948, and August showed a decrease of 21.9 hours on the average for the previous 10 years, 1942—1951.

The total rainfall (36.43in.) for the year exceeded the average for the 10 years, 1942—1951, by 3.82in. February, (.58in.) and July (.89in.) had the lowest falls since 1942 and 1935 respectively, but May (4.17in.) the highest since 1946, and August's recorded total of 5.58in. was well above the average of 3.84in. for the past 10 years, 1942—1951.

Weston-super-Mare had 19 consecutive days drought in July, followed by a period of 19 days rain in which 5.77in. fell, 1.76in. falling in the 24 hours when 9.0in. were recorded in the Lynmouth area, the period of the disastrous flood.

September, October and November had the lowest maximum temperatures, (68°, 64° and 56°) since 1931, 1944 and 1933 respectively.

4in. snow was recorded in November, and remained on the ground for the following six days.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1952

1952 MONTH	AIR TEMPERATURES						Amount of Cloud 9 a.m.	Relative Humidity 9 a.m.	Amount of Cloud 9 a.m.	Radiation	RAIN		SUN		SEA Tempera- tures	
	MEANS			EXTREMES							Amount Inches	No. of days with .04 ins or more	Number of Hours			
	9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Range	Mean	Max.								Min.		
JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
MEANS AND TOTALS		50.2	56.5	44.5	12.1	50.5	65.6	34.7	80.4	5.3	38.9*	36.43	129	1652.3	53.1	

* 10 months only.

